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SUBJECT: ROMANIAN MEDIA REACTION TO PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT

1. AUGUST 2 EDITIONS OF SCINTEIA AND ROMANIAN LIBERA EACH CARRIED 84 COLUMN INCHS OF FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT. ONE STORY GAVE FORD BIO, ANOTHER OUTLINED "ASCENDING" COURSE OF U.S.-ROMANIAN RELATIONS IN LAST FEW YEARS. SCINTEIA STORY STATES THAT THE TALKS WHICH THE TWO PRESIDENTS WILL HAVE IN UPCOMING VISIT WILL "BE A POLITICAL EVENT OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE"(AND)... WILL BE INSCRIBED AS A NEW AND REMARKABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE EXPANSION OF COLLABORATION IN MANY FIELDS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES". BOTH PAPERS CARRIED FRONT-PAGE 3 1/2 X 5 1/2 OFFICIAL PHOTO OF PRESIDENT FORD, SUPPLIED BY EMBASSY.

2. FIRST THREE PAGES OF AUGUST EDITION OF SCINTEIA (ROMANIAN LIBERA NOT PUBLISHED ON SUNDAYS) DEVOTED TO PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT. FRONT PAGE HAS LARGE PHOTOS OF TWO PRESIDENTS SHAKING HANDS AT AIRPORT ARRIVAL, MEETING AT COUNCIL OF STATE, AND WITH WIVES AT OFFICIAL DINNER. PHOTOS ON OTHER TWO PAGES SHOW TWO PRESIDENTS AND WIVES DANCING IN
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THE VICTORY PLAZA WITH GROUP OF ROMANIAN FOLK DANCERS, WAVING AT CHEERING CROWDS ALONG MOTORCADE ROUTE, AND TWO PRESIDENTS

SMILING BROADLY IN THEIR HEAD-TO-HEAD DISCUSSIONS. FRONT-PAGE BANNER SIZE HEADLINE READS "CONTINUING THE FRUITFUL HIGH-LEVEL U.S.-ROMANIAN DIALOGUE, IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF FRIENDLY SENTIMENTS, RESPECT, AND MUTUAL APPRECIATION, YESTERDAY THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT FORD IN ROMANIA BEGAN; "SUB-HEAD READS "PRESIDENTS FORD AND CEAUSESCU SALUTED WARMLY BY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF BUCHARESTANS". OFFICIAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS DESCRIBED AS HAVING DEVELOPED IN AN "ATMOSPHERE OF CORDIALITY, HONOR AND MUTUAL RESPECT". FYI-SCINTEIA'S AUGUST 2 EDITION DESCRIBED CEAUSESCU-BREZHNEV MEETING AS HAVING BEEN NO BETTER THAN "COMRADELY".

3. AUGUST 4 EDITION OF ROMANIAN LIBERA (SCINTEIA NOT PUBLISHED ON MONDAYS) CARRIES FRONT PAGE HEADLINE "AN IMPORTANT STAGE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRIENDSHIP AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ROMANIA". THREE AND ONE-HALF OF PAPER'S FIRST FOUR PAGES DEVOTED TO VISIT COVERAGE, INCLUDING 12 PHOTOS. TEXTS OF ALL TOASTS, STATEMENTS AND THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED. LEAD ARTICLE TREATS SIGNING OF COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT AND JOINT COMMUNIQUE IN SINAIA'S PELES CASTLE.
BARNES

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